

Application No.: 10/009,018

Docket No.: AP9650

REMARKS

Claim 7 has been amended and no claims are canceled herein. Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11, and 12 were previously canceled. No new claims are added. Accordingly, claims 7 and 10 remain under prosecution in this application.

35 USC §102

Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by German Publication DE 198 14 304.4.

Claim 7 has been amended to read on the embodiment set out in Figure 4. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate, amongst other limitations, "... wherein the valve housing includes a one piece sleeve fabricated from a unitary piece of material having a generally uniform cross section throughout, wherein said one piece sleeve includes a sidewall portion extending from a generally continuous bottom portion, wherein said bottom portion directly contacts and receives the valve seat. . ." Although the '304 reference does include a sleeve portion having a generally uniform cross section, the sleeve portion ends at collar 17 and does not extend to a "continuous bottom portion, wherein the bottom portion directly contacts and receives the valve seat. . ." For this reason alone, the undersigned believes that claim 7 is allowable over the '304 reference. Moreover, claim 7 as amended, now requires that "... wherein the sidewall portion of the one piece sleeve includes a stepped portion that accommodates a ring filter. . ." Although the '304 reference does show filter 14, it is not accommodated by a stepped portion of the sidewalls of the one piece sleeve but rather it appears that it is accommodated by the combination of the first annular part 2' in combination with the collar 17. In any event, claim 7 as amended, is not taught or suggested by the '304 reference, and accordingly, all of the claims of record are now in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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